



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
House Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Thursday, May 9, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Republicans Pass Legislation to Prevent Fraud in the Initiative Petition Circulation Process

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12) today applauded his Republican colleagues in the House for passing SB 1451, which will restore integrity to Arizona’s initiative petition circulation process by instituting several reforms.

SB 1451 prohibits bad actors from serving as paid petition circulators. Individuals who have been convicted of violating election law in the last 5 years, convicted felons who have not had their voting rights restored, and anyone who has been convicted of fraud, forgery, or theft cannot serve as paid petition circulators.

“Unless an initiative campaign is using crooks as petition signature circulators, this bill won’t make it any more difficult to get an initiative on the ballot,” said Representative Petersen. **“Unfortunately, fraud and wrongdoing among paid initiative petition circulators is a reality, and it’s undermining the trust that Arizonans ought to have in our initiative process.”**

“The bill only applies to out-of-state and paid petition circulators, so it would have no effect on volunteer, grassroots efforts.”

“Under current law, if I falsify candidate forms, I can and will be penalized, yet there are no repercussions for the out-of-state billionaires who use Arizona as their guinea pig or the paid petition circulators who falsify information with the Secretary of State’s office. That’s got to change, so I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass SB 1451.”

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CONTACT:
Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Republican Caucus
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov